

# Acacia mearnsii

## COMMON NAME

black wattle

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Acacia mearnsii* De Wild.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

ACAMEA

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Waste places, scrubland, pasture, riverbanks

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to large tree, twigs ribbed or angled. Leaves 2-pinnate, pinnae in 9-18 pairs, pinnules close-set, dark green and in 20-60 pairs. Inflorescence consists of many pale creamy yellow globose heads arranged in racemes. Seed pod straight or somewhat curved, up to 90 x 7 mm, usually constricted around each seed.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*A. mearnsii* is easily distinguished by the dark green foliage, creamy yellow flowers and the most pinnules of all the 2-pinnate wattles naturalised.

## FLOWERING

July, August, September

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981

## ORIGIN

S.E. Australia, Tasmania

## ETYMOLOGY

**acacia:** Derived from Greek 'akazo' to sharpen, meaning point; spine or thorn.



*Acacia mearnsii*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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**Reason For Introduction**

Ornamental

**Life Cycle Comments**

Perennial. seeds have been known to germinate after 90 years.

**Reproduction**

Seed is produced in large numbers in dark brown pods. Seed viability is estimated at 50 years. Mass germination is likely following fire, or mechanical disturbance. Saplings may coppice if cut, but does not sucker.

**Seed**

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**Dispersal**

Spread by people for firewood and as an ornamental tree. Seed dispersed locally by wind and gravity.

**Tolerances**

Can tolerate dry conditions and frosts to about -7 degrees.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-mearnsii/>